

Sara Wilson - National treasure: ours or China's?: Objections to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

From: Fiona Sim <fionasim24@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/24/2012 1:13 PM
Subject: National treasure: ours or China's?: Objections to the Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

To whom it may concern, Mining and Major Industry Projects, Dept of Planning and Infrastructure, Sydney

re: Moolarben Coal Complex Stage 2 _ Preferred Project Report: Project No: 08_0135

I wish to make a number of objections to the above project:

- The Department of Planning needs to appoint an independent expert panel or Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) to fully scrutinise the strategies, assumptions and actions.
- Water issues are inadequately assessed: there are significant disparities between Moolarben and Ulan Coal Mines groundwater assessments and there is no confidence that the groundwater modelling accurately predicts water impacts. In addition there will be a water deficit for 23 of 24 years (up to 1990ML extra water required).
- Water for coal washing should be first sourced from Ulan Coal Mine surplus groundwater before additional extraction from the Northern Borefield (adjacent to the Goulburn River).
- The permanent damage (at least 100 years) to the Goulburn River and connected groundwater system is unacceptable.
- The offset package is totally inadequate on two major accounts. The first is it fails to include The Drip and Corner Gorges. These are culturally and scenically significant river corridors that have long been favourite public recreation places. They should never have been converted from Crown land to freehold land and sold to a non-Australian company. The government MUST rectify this mistake by insisting these areas form part of the offset package and secure their long-term protection, appropriate management and ongoing public access by annexing them to the adjacent Goulbourn River National Park.
- The second inadequacy of the offset package is that biodiversity offsets are located outside the Hunter Valley catchment, do not represent 'like for like', and do not replace the net loss to the bio-region.
- Stage 2 sees still more (123ha) EEC Box Woodland being cleared. How is it that mining companies just continue to clear hectares of this EEC when no-one else can? In total, there will be over 900ha of native forest cleared.
- 148 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites are likely to be affected.
- Excessive noise levels due to the location of the conveyor on top of ridge (must be sound attenuated and set lower on landscape to minimise noise dispersal).
- The production of 17Mt coal or 23.7 Million tonnes (co2-e) year of greenhouse gases further fuels climate instability.
- The increased pressure on housing and services such as doctors (it already takes a month to get an appointment with a doctor) and schools in the Mudgee area has not been addressed.
- The Voluntary Payment Agreement offered to Mid Western Region Council is only \$1.365m and is totally inadequate. In the end we, the rate-payers, continue to subsidise the mining companies as it is the rate-payers who end up paying the bill for the increased infrastructure needed for the ever-expanding mines.

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